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Profile in Courage

Last week on nationwide television, CBS correspondent Roger Mudd stated that Senator Robert Kennedy's performance in this election year, especially his failure to at least endorse Senator McCarthy's campaign, has left a bad taste in the mouths of many. To a rapidly growing number of disenchanted voters this was an understatement. It would seem that the skeptics were right all along. In a clash between the Senator's convictions (if they ever really existed) and his political career, the latter naturally won out. No amount of rationalizing or alibiing will satisfy those Americans who are being forced to sacrifice much more than a political career. And it will take more than a good press agent and a friendly smile to erase this memory from the minds of the voters in 1972.

Nor does the Senator from New York stand alone. To varying degrees most of the other "concerned leaders" are giving us a similar performance of "my party right or wrong." To paraphrase Gore Vidal: in an election year there are really no doves or hawks, only capons.

It is no wonder that so many, especially among the young, are being forced to look beyond the major parties for the leadership this country deserves.

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